(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to boost the PSUs?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) There are various parameters to assess achievements of PSUs. A summary of achievements made by Central PSUs in terms of financial parameters during last 10 years is given in Table 1.13 at pages 19 and 20 in Volume-I of Public Enterprises Survey, 1995-96 laid in Parliament on 5.5.1997.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Improving the performance of public sector enterprises is a continuous process. Some of the measures taken by the Government to boost the performance of PSUs include signing of MOUs with public enterprises, periodic performance review by the administrative Ministries, delegation of enhanced powers to Board of Directors and their professionalisation, reduction of surplus manpower through VRS, technology upgradation etc. Government have also decided to grant more managerial and financial autonomy to 9 PSUs coined 'Nav-Ratna', apart from enhancing financial power to PSUs Board to incur capital expenditure.

Election of Persons having Criminal Background

527. KUMARI UMA BHARATI:

SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to prevent persons having criminal background from contesting the elections;

(b) if so, the main features of the proposal; and

(c) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) section 8 (a) of the Representation of people Act, 1951 disqualifies a person on conviction for certain offences mentioned in the section. This section also provides that any person convicted of any offence and sentenced to imprisonment for not less than two years shall be disqualified from the date of such conviction and shall continue to be disqualified for a period of six years since his release. In view of these provisions, there is, at present, no proposal to amend election laws in this regard.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Cotton Spinning Mills in U.P.

528. PROF. OMPAL SINGH 'NIDAR': Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the places in Uttar Pradesh where cotton spinning mills are situated and the production capacity thereof;

(b) whether the cotton spinning mills in the State are utilising their full capacity;

(c) if not, the reasons thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government for smooth functioning of these mills?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) to (d) The cotton/man-made fibre spinning mills in Uttar Pradesh are mainly in Allahabad, Azamgarh, Raebareily, Hathras, Mirzapur, Bulandshahar, Etawah, Maghar, Bijnor, Amroha (Moradabad), Baheri (Distt. Bareilly), Mau-Aima (Distt. Allahabad), Mahmoodabad Sitapur, Bahadurganj, Kampil (Distt. Farrukabad), Fathepur, Mathura, Meerut, Ghaziabad, Moradabad, Dehradun, Nainital, Sahibabad, Modinagar, Faizabad, Barabanki, Jhansi, Hardoi, Ballia, Jaunpur and Banda. The installed capacity of 64 mills as on 31.3.97 is 1898318 spindles, 6072 rotors and 11567 looms. The private sector spinning mills other than those lying closed are generally utilising their capacity.

Government has set up the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) to enquire into the working of sick industrial companies and to prepare and sanction, as appropriate, schemes for their revival.

Allocation for Handloom Sector

529. SHRI N. DENNIS:

SHRI RAJKESHAR SINGH:

SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO:

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating making a higher allocation for the handloom sectors;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government also propose to formulate any scheme for modernisation of looms in addition to the provision for such modernisation in the exiting Handloom Development Centres;

(d) if so, the total amount released by the Union Government to the State Governments for implementation of various schemes in the handloom sector during the Eighth Plan;

(e) to what extent production of handloom cloth had increased up during 1996-97; and

(f) the allocation of funds to be made for handloom sector during the Ninth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. As against the expenditure of Rs. 87.55

crores during 1996-97 under Plan Head, a sum of Rs. 110 crores has been allocated for 1997-98 for the handloom sector.

(c) Yes Sir. The Project Package Scheme inter-aliaenvisages release of assistance for modernisation of looms.

(d) A sum of Rs. 263.32 crores was released to various State Governments and UTs under Plan Schemes during the VIIIth Plan period.

(e) During the VIIIth Plan, the handloom cloth production had increased from 5219 million Sq. mtrs. in 1992-93 to 7235 million sq. mtrs. in 1996-97 registering an increase of 38.6%.

(f) The Ninth Five Year Plan provision for Handloom Sector has not been finalised by the Government.

Foreign Exchange Dealers

530. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the revenue intelligence agencies have launched a countrywide investigations into the working of many foreign exchange dealers;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to curb the illegal activities of such foreign exchange dealers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, during 1996-97 the Enforcement Directorate has initiated investigations against 11 authorised dealers/money changers in the cases relating to suspected violations of the provisions of Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973 (FERA).

(c) The Government keeps a constant vigil to keep a check on the illegal activities of the foreign exchange dealers.

CBI Enquiry Against IOB

531. SHRI MANGAL RAM PREMI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 4392 dated March 21, 1997 regarding "CBI enquiry against IOB" and state:

(a) whether the information has since been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken thereon;

(d) the number of officers in the private and public sector banks who have been issued show cause notices for not following the laid down norms of RBI and/or for showing negligence in performing their duties; and

(e) the action taken/proposed to be taken against such officers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) to (c) Certain clarifications have been sought in respect of information furnished by the Indian Overseas Bank for fulfilling the assurance given in response to Unstarred Question No. 4392 dated March 21, 1997.

(d) and (e) The present data reporting system in the Reserve Bank of India does not generate information asked for in the Question. However, the information relating to action taken against delinquent employees of public sector banks for their involvement in frauds during the years 1994, 1995 & 1996 is given below:-

	1994	1995	1996
(a) No. of employees convicted	50	33	46
(b) No. of employees dismissed/ discharged/removed	360	301	331
(c) No. of employees awarded major/minor penalty	1248	1160	1207

[Translation]

Supply of Coal

532. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to refer to reply given to unstarred Question No. 3314 on March 14, 1997 and state:

(a) whether the Ministry has sent the above proposal to the Standing Convention Committee (long term);

(b) if so, the time by which the process for supply of Coal if likely to be completed; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) to (c) Damodar Valley Corporation had earlier proposed to set up 4 x 210 MW capacity Maithan Right Bank TPS and coal supply had been agreed to from Bharat Coking Coal Ltd. sources. The capacity of this TPS has now been upgraded to 1000 MW (4 x 250 MW) and the request of DVC for long-term linkage for this TPS has been received in the Ministry of Coal in February, 1997. The proposal of DVC would by considered by the Standing Linkage Committee (Long-Term), alongwith others, in the meeting proposed to be held in the first week of August, 1997.

[English]

Vacant Highest Posts in Public Financial Units

533. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the public sector financial units in which the highest posts are presently lying vacant;